

**In the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

~~A raster microscope provided with an exciting light beam (3) for optically exciting a first sample area; also provided with a stimulating light beam (15) for triggering the stimulated emission or for further excitation in another sample area at least partially overlapping with the first sample area; at least one lens (45) for focusing the exciting light beam (3) and stimulating light beam (15), further comprising an optical component (23) for influencing the form of the focus of the exciting light beam (3) and/or stimulating light beam (15). The raster microscope is characterized in that at least one lens (29, 57) is provided for imaging the optical component in the aperture (59) of the lens (45). The size of the image of the optical component (23) is adjustable.~~

A scanning microscope includes an excitation light beam, a stimulation light beam, an objective, an optical component and an optical system. The excitation light beam optically excites a first area of a specimen. The stimulation light beam triggers a stimulated emission or an additional excitation in a second area of the specimen, the second area at least partially overlapping with the first area of the specimen. The objective focuses the excitation light beam and the stimulation light beam. The optical component influences a shape of the focus of the excitation light beam and/or of the stimulation light beam. The optical system images the optical component into the pupil of the objective and adjusts a size of an image of the optical component.